It has been going on from the beginning of 1113 to Karkadagam 1117. I want to know whether it refers only to one case, or a number of cases?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)*: I have not seen the charge-sheet. I want notice.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters)*: May I know whether the name of the accused is sub-judice?

Mr. M. Sivarama Menon *(Advocate-General)*: That is not sub-judice. But the charge sheet is not before the Secretary to the Government. It forms part and parcel of the question.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South)*: There have been a number of cases with regard to the stealing of types from the beginning of 1113. With regard to those matters which are not sub-judice, let us get some information. There have been a few cases with regard to the stealing of paper recently.

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)*: I am not prepared even to admit that there was a theft with regard to paper now.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri)*: May I know whether the matter was sub-judice from 1113 to 1117, four years?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)*: The incident that is under reference is not the incident of 1113. The incident under reference is a thing which took place about a month ago.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri)*: We want to know whether any revelation has taken place from 1113 with regard to this department? We do not want to know exactly what were the things found missing, as far as the department is concerned.

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)*: The Government have to take a very cautious attitude. We do not know what will come out of this present enquiry. I do not want to say anything, whether a theft has occurred or has not occurred during these years.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri)*: Is any report regarding the stock entrusted to him received from the Superintendent of the Press at the end of every year?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)*: The matter is sub-judice. I do not want to go into details in connection with this theft. If the Hon'ble Member puts the question in any other fashion, I am prepared to answer.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri)*: The question is this. Is not the stock taken at the end of every year?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)*: All these questions of stock taking, whether there has been a theft and so many other matters—will come up at the time of enquiry into the case. So I am not prepared to answer them now.

Mr. President: I consider it is not desirable to go into these questions now. They may be raised after the enquiry. That is my ruling.

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)*: The case will be decided very soon.

REFERENCES TO BAR ASSOCIATION REGARDING BILLS

74. Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri)*: Will Government be pleased to inform.—

(*a*) how many references to the Bar Association have been made during the last 5 years calling for their opinion on Bills under consideration by Government;

(*b*) (1) whether opinions have been submitted to Government by the Bar Association whenever called for;

(2) whether they have been considered; and

(3) the Bar Association informed as to the same;

(*c*) in how many cases have Government adopted the opinion of the Bar Association and in how many cases have they rejected the same;

(*d*) whether the Bar Association has been informed as to the progress of such Bills, after the submission of their opinion;

(*e*) whether draft Proclamations have been sent to Bar Association for opinion?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)*:

(*a*) It is not possible to give the exact figure but important legislative measures such as the Agriculturists' Relief Bill, Kuries Bill, Verumpattam Bill, etc., have been sent to them for opinion.

(*b*) (1) Yes.

(2) Yes.

(3) No.

(*c*) It is very difficult to give the number.

(*d*) No.

(*e*) No.

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Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri)*: With regard to the draft proclamations, are they not as much important as other statutes?

Mr. M. Sivarama Menon *(Advocate-General)*: Proclamations have certainly the force of law.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri)*: In the case of very emergent matters, no consultation is necessary. But in other cases, what is the objection for the Government to refer such proclamations to the Bar Association?

Mr. M. Sivarama Menon *(Advocate-General)*: Proclamations are issued in emergent matters. Therefore there is no time to get the opinions of the Bar Associations on them.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri)*: I concede the point. In emergent times Government may do so. What I said was, in cases of *verumpattamdar's* cases of eviction—they are kept at a standstill. In such cases, it affects the country as a whole. The Bar Association will be able to give some information on this. I ask what is the objection for such proclamations being sent for emergent consideration by the Bar Association?

Mr. M. Sivarama Menon *(Advocate-General)*: Since the Hon'ble Member has made reference to the proclamation regarding *verumpattamdars* I may say that when the decision was taken, to stop eviction the proclamation should have been issued, if possible, that very day. It has no retrospective effect. Speed in such cases is the all important matter as otherwise some tenants might be evicted in execution proceedings in the meanwhile.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri)*: I referred to that particular instance by way of illustration. The principle is not that. Is there any objection to refer such matters to the Bar Association?

Mr. M. Sivarama Menon *(Advocate-General)*: I am not aware of any proclamation which has been issued except in emergent cases.

SPARE LANDS IN MUNICIPALITIES—LEASING OF

75. **Mr. C. V. Iyyu** *(Kunnamkulam)*: Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) whether the Municipalities have made any arrangement to lease out the spare lands available within their limits to produce as much food crops as possible;

(*b*) if so, what is the approximate acreage leased and brought under cultivation?

Mr. C. J. Mathew *(Joint Secretary to Government)*: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Over 22 acres have already been leased out and brought under cultivation.

Mr. A. L. Antony *(Irinjalakkuda)*: May I know who is the controlling authority?

Mr. C. J. Mathew *(Joint Secretary to Government)*: The Municipality.

Mr. A. L. Antony *(Irinjalakkuda)*: Are they given power?

Mr. C. J. Mathew *(Joint Secretary to Government)*: Yes. The Irinjalakkuda Municipality itself has leased out 5 acres 22 cents. All the Municipalities have been instructed to lease out the available lands.

TRENCHING GROUND OF MATTANCHERI

76. **Mr. B. M. Peter** *(Latin-Christians-Mattancheri)*: Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) what is the distance between the trenching ground of Mattancheri and northern extremity of Mattancheri Town;

(*b*) how the night-soil is carried at present to the ground?

Mr. C. J. Mathew *(Joint Secretary to Government)*: (*a*) A little over four miles.

(*b*) Usually night-soil is being transported by the Motor lorry. Since it is not now in working order the work is being done by manual labour.

Mr. Ismail Hajee Essa Sait *(Mattancheri)*: May I know, Sir, wherefrom you have got information to the effect that the motor lorry is not in working order?

Mr. C. J. Mathew *(Joint Secretary to Government)*: The Commissioner, Mattancheri Muncipality reported to that effect.

Mr. Ismail Hajee Essa Sait *(Mattancheri)*: Or, is it due to the scarcity of petrol?

Mr. C. J. Mathew *(Joint Secretary to Government)*: It is not in working order. That is the report received by the Government.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri)*: Will the Government be able to state whether the Municipal Commissioner ever complained of want of petrol?

Mr. C. J. Mathew *(Joint Secretary to Government)*: He has never made any such complaint.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters)*: Will the Government adopt some civilised method of transportation of night-soil?

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